[House of Representatives.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, December 16, 1864.—Ordered to be printed.

[By Mr. Barksdale. Moved as substitute for Mr. Turner's resolutions.]

RESOLUTIONS

Relating to the war and negotiations for peace.

1 Whereas, The people of the Confederate States, having been
2 compelled by the people of the non-slaveholding states, to dis-
3 solve their connection with those states and to form a new com-
4 pact, in order to preserve their liberties: *and, whereas*, the ef-
5 forts made by the government of the Confederate States immedi-
6 ately on its organization, to establish friendly relations between
7 it and the government of the United States, having proved
8 unavailing by reason of the refusal of the government of the
9 United States to hold intercourse with the commissioners ap-
10 pointed by this government for that purpose: *and, whereas*,
11 the government of the United States having since repeatedly
12 refused to listen to propositions for an honorable peace, and
13 having declared to foreign nations in advance that it would re-
14 ject any offer of mediation which they might be prompted to
15 make in the interests of humanity, for terminating the war, and
16 thus having manifested their determination to continue it with

a view to the reduction of the people of these states to degrading bondage or to their extermination. Therefore be it

Resolved, That while we reiterate our readiness to enter upon negotiations for peace whenever the hearts of our enemies are so inclined, we will pursue without faltering, the course we have deliberately chosen; and for the preservation of our liberties, we will employ whatever means Providence has placed at our disposal.

Resolved That the mode prescribed in the constitution of the Confederate States for making treaties of peace, affords ample means for the attainment of that end whenever the government of the United States abandon their wicked purpose to subjugate them, and evince a willingness to enter upon negotiations for the termination of the war.

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